Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkatisvara Aiyar : Yes, Sir.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail : Is it nota fact that these claims have been pending for the last three or four years ?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkatisvara Aiyar : Yes, Sir.

I request the honourable members to be pleased to accept the demand.

The question that a sum of Rs. 3,72,245 be granted under Demand IV—Forest—was then put to vote and carried.

The Demand was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND V—REGISTRATION.

Mr. K. Madhava Kurup (*Director of Registration*) : Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 3,18,514 under Demand V—Registration.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : Sir, I have not given my name among the list of speakers, but I wish to speak on this subject. May I do so, Sir.

President : Yes, it is alright.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : Sir, the Registration Department is considered as one of the minor Departments of Government and under the 'Thommen Scheme' of the last administration the pay of the Director of Registration has been fixed as Rs. 250. But of late it is noticed that the Government have taken a particular fascination evidently taking for granted that their officers are jack of all trades, for appointing officers who are drawing almost double the salary fixed for the post as Director of Registration. Before the present Director was appointed, the Government appointed the Director of Industries, an expert in dyeing as the Director of Registration. We, on this side recorded our emphatic protest, by a cut-motion in the Lower House against such irresponsible method of appointments and transfer made by Government. But, indeed, it is amusing to find, Sir, that when that officer was appointed elsewhere, another officer of the State drawing nearly double the salary fixed for the post of the Director of Registration is again appointed as the Director of Registration. When we fix the pay for a post it should be fixed with reference to the status, qualification, and attainments necessary for the officer to be appointed to the post. By violating this principle after once accepted it, the Government are creating legitimate complaint and discontentment among the officers in the subordinate service. To be frank Sir, on the appointment of the present incumbent as the Director of Registration Government have unwittingly done a double injustice. I can say without any fear of contradiction that by putting as irony of fate would have it, an officer of proved ability and efficiency and eminently experienced in the intricate working of the central administration of Government to guide the destinies of a minor department

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for which an officer of much inferior merit and mettle would be sufficient, the Government have not only injured the prospects of the officer himself but the others in the department who were legitimately expecting promotion and betterment. Besides, by that appointment, the Government are wasting a big amount, to the tune of Rs. 3600 annually. I urge, that at least in view of the unjustifiable financial strain on our resources the Government would resort to a better and a more fair arrangement with respect to such unreasonable and indiscriminate appointments.

Another point I wish to draw the attention of the Director of Registration is the almost indiscriminate and inconvenient location of sub-registry offices in the moffusil areas. Usually one Sub-Registry office has got within its jurisdiction a number of pakuthies and the majority of the people who go for registration are poor agriculturists, so much so, that, in the past the principle that the Sub-Registry office should be located as far as possible in a central position equi distant from the boundaries of the various pakuthies has been accepted. But, of late, this policy is being outragiously violated. To cite one instance the Maranalloor office which had six pakuthies within its jurisdiction and which was occupying a central, and most convenient position was removed from that place to far off Kattakkadai simply to allay the clamour of some interested, influential people. Sir, I would in this connection strongly urge the Director of Registration to reallocate the sub-registry offices removed attrociously and arbitarily from their former place of habitation by his predecessor in office.

With these few words, I oppose the demand.

Mr. James Fletcher: Sir, I desire to bring to the notice of this House one complaint about the Sub Registrars. I am referring to the refusal of these sub-registrars to take up documents for registration. Though they have time and convenience, they do not take up for registration more than eight or ten documents in a day. I sent up an interpellation asking the number of documents a Sub-Registrar should take up in a day. The answer is that there is no hard and fast rule in the matter. The Sub-Registrars should take up as many documents as can be executed. They must be prepared to accept all the documents presented before them before 3 P. M.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Does the member want a hard and fast rule to be laid down?

Mr. James Fletcher: I do not want any hard and fast rule. But what I am requesting is that the Sub Registrars may be asked to accept all documents presented to them before 3 P. M. If they are not able to register them in the same day they may keep the balance over for the next day.

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Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know whether any such complaint has been preferred to the Director of Registration?

Mr. James Fletcher: Yes, Sir. I have spoken to the Director of Registration about that.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: ആഫീസ് സമയം കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നാലും ആധാരങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടോ എന്നു ചോദിച്ച് വാതുക്കൽ കാത്തുനിൽക്കുന്ന സബ രജിസ്ട്രാന്മാരും ഉണ്ടെന്നു മെംബർക്കറിയാമോ?

Mr. James Fletcher: I am aware of that. But what I am complaining about is that even before 1 P. M., the Sub-Registrars shut out people from presenting the documents. I do not complain if they do not take up documents for registration after 3 P. M.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: മൂന്നുമണിക്കു മേലാ ണെങ്കിൽ തന്നെയും വല്ലതും കൊടുത്താൽ ആധാരങ്ങൾ സ്വീകരിക്കുന്ന പതിവുണ്ടോ?

Mr. James Fletcher: That is what I understand. They do it with a purpose. That is why I am bringing that fact to the notice of this House.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: May I know whether that allegation is based on surmise or on his knowledge?

Mr. James Fletcher: I am speaking from personal knowledge and from complaints that have come to me.

Another point I wish to bring to the notice of this House is about document writers. They are not paid by the Government or by the Sub-Registry offices. Yet they exert a lot of unnecessary influence and they bring about trouble to the Sub-Registrars and to the public.

Mr. M. K Ananthasiva Aiyar: Are they not being paid by the people who go for registration?

Mr. James Fletcher: Yes.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: May I know whether they are not of great use to the public?

Mr James Fletcher: They are sometimes useful but often they are dangerous. It is these document writers that create a lot of litigations. What I want to suggest is that their number should be reduced.

President: Are they attached to an office?

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Mr. James Fletcher: What I submit is that these sub-registry offices are situated in different localities. These document writers go to those offices early morning and do their work. My suggestion is that wherever there is a large number of document writers, men of good character with reasonable qualifications should be licensed to write these documents.

President: In other words a kind of test should be held about their knowledge of conveyance.

Mr. James Fletcher: Yes Sir. In Vakil offices the clerks are registered. There names are registered so that we may find out who has done any mischief if there is any. In this way there is some control over the work of these clerks. I suggest that these document writers may be registered and only men of character should be allowed to ply this business.

President: Even men of character can commit legal mistakes.

Mr. James Fletcher: But men of character will not commit such mistakes with impunity.

Mr. M. Govindan: May not a general educational qualification be fixed?

Mr. James Fletcher: That may be advantageous. I have no objection to that being tried.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: Why not the lawyers be entrusted with the preparation of documents?

Mr. James Fletcher: I would be happy if such a thing is done.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: What would be the position in places where there are no Lawyers?

President: Are there such places?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: There are places where there are sub-registry offices but there are no Lawyers.

President: I am personally not aware of any such place.

Mr. James Fletcher: The clerks are asked to get a certificate from the Police Inspector of the locality about their character, whether they are communists or whether they are in the K. D. lists.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Will the Police Inspector be able to certify about the charcter of these clerks?

Mr. James Fletcher: Yes. They can say whether they are in the K. D. list or not.

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It will be advantageous to have some control over these document writers by asking them to obtain a license from the office.

In answer to a question today whether there are any leakages in stamp and Registering fees I was told that there is no such leakage. I beg to differ from that statement. It was so thought in the case of Judicial department. It was thought that court fee was being properly received and that the persons in charge of the court fee section were doing their duties properly. But after the appointment of court fee Inspectors it was found that there has been leakage in court fees and money has been realised.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know from the member whether the amount that will be realised will be commensurate with the amount spent on the appointment of the court fee inspectors ?

Mr. James Fletcher: I have not studied the statistics.

In this case the District Registrars who go for inspection are inspecting only 10 per cent of the documents so much so about 90 per cent of the documents are not scrutinised. My submission is that it would be advantageous to have some inspector of stamp fees in the Department whose sole duty will be to go round to the various sub-registry offices, inspect the documents and find out whether proper Registration fee and stamp have been taken. I am sure these documents are not being scrutinised properly at present because of rush of work.

Therefore my suggestion is that a person who knows about the stamp duties and the fixing of the amounts on documents, like the Court Fee Inspectors obtaining in the judicial department, may be appointed in this department also, for the purpose of assessing correctly the stamp value on documents. With these suggestions I support the demand.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: Sir, I shall begin by saying that, from my honourable friend Mr. Krishna Pillai's statement, I find the department should be congratulated for having an officer who is fit for some higher department. On account of the amount of salary that he draws, when that department is taken into consideration, I am only glad that it is controlled by an officer who, according to my friend, draws double the salary fixed for that office.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know, has not the tone of the department improved with the coming in of the present Director ?

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Mr. V. Sankara Menon : I am glad to state, both from report of the people and from personal experiences, that the department has gained very much in tone and strength and it is working very efficiently. I myself had occasion to see some of the Sub Registry Offices recently in the mofussil and observed some innovation which I did not find some time back. Records and registers which are the basis of the department are kept very secure in a well-bound and nicely kept fashion.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail : May I know whether the honourable member is an Inspecting Officer ?

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : I am not an Inspecting Officer But I am a person who is entrusted with the welfare of the people. As a representative of the people—I think it is the duty of every member to see into the working of several departments so far as allowed—I used to go to several offices to know first hand what things are going on. In that capacity I know about the working of this department.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: Then May I know whether that office will entrust the records to any visitor for inspection ?

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : I did not want a temporary or permanent use of the records. But I only found the way in which the records were kept and they were in an orderly fashion. I am speaking only of that.

The next point I urge for the attention of the department as well as Government is in regard to the location of the additional Sub Registry Offices proposed in the next year's budget. As far as possible, they should be located in the middle portion of a locality so as to be advantageous to the pakuthies scattered around it. For instance, in the Nedumangad taluk where additionally two Sub-Registry Offices have been temporarily sanctioned, I understand that one of them should be located some where at Pothencode, which is an important centre of that taluk. It will serve more advantageously the convenience and facilities of six or seven pakuthies that are adjoining the place. I also understand it may not be so very correct—that nearly 50 to 60 per cent of the documents which are being registered at Nedumangad come from those pakuthies situated near Pothencode. I only give this as an instance. It will be better therefore that, in the interest of the people for whom the offices are meant it is located in a central place away from principal Sub Registry Office of the locality, and thus see that the money set apart for it is expended usefully. With these words I support the demand.

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Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe: സർ, സബ് രജിസ്ട്രാർ കച്ചേരികളിൽ നിന്നും കക്ഷിക്കാർക്കു സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റുകൾ കൊടുക്കുന്ന രീതിയിൽ ചില വ്യത്യാസങ്ങൾ വരുത്തണം. ആരെങ്കിലും ഒരു സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റിനു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ വസ്തുവിന്റെ പൂർണ്ണവിവരങ്ങൾ അടങ്ങിയതും സബ് രജിസ്ട്രാർ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം വഹിക്കുന്നതും ആയ നിലയിൽ എഴുതിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റുകൾ കൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റിനു അപേക്ഷകൾതന്നെ ചുരുങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതുകൊണ്ട് ഗവണ്മെന്റിനാണ് ആദായം കുറയുന്നതു. ഇപ്പോൾ വസ്തുവിനുള്ള ചാർജ്ജുകൾ അറിയേണ്ടിവന്നാൽ കക്ഷിക്കാർതന്നെ അവരുടെ സ്വന്തം ആളുകളെ അയച്ച് കച്ചേരിയിലുള്ള ക്ലാർക്കന്മാർക്കോ മറ്റോ പണം കൊടുത്തു കുറിച്ചെടുത്തു ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ നിറവേറ്റുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു. അതുകൊണ്ട് അവരുടെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു വല്ലതും കിട്ടുന്നു എന്നല്ലാതെ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ വരവു കുറയുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : കക്ഷികൾ ചെന്ന് അവർതന്നെ റിക്കാർഡുകൾ നോക്കി പകർപ്പുകൾ കുറിച്ചെടുക്കുകയാണോ അതോ അവിടെയുള്ള മറുവല്ലവരെയുംകൊണ്ട് റിക്കാർഡുകൾ നോക്കിക്കുയാണോ ചെയ്യുന്നതു.

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe : രണ്ടുതരത്തിലും ചെയ്യാറുണ്ട് കച്ചേരിയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന പ്രമാണങ്ങൾ മറ്റു കക്ഷികളെ നോക്കാൻ അനുവദിക്കുന്നതുതന്നെ ഒരു നല്ല ഏർപ്പാടല്ല. മറ്റു കക്ഷികൾക്കു കാണാൻപാടില്ലാത്ത പ്രമാണങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കും. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഈരീതി തുടരുന്നതു നല്ലതല്ല. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു വസ്തുവിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഒരു സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റു ചോദിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ ആ വസ്തു അടങ്ങിയ മൊത്തംനമ്പരിലുള്ള സകല കരണത്തെയും സംബന്ധിച്ചാണുഎഴുതിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നതു. ഒരു നമ്പരിൽ തന്നെ ആയിരം ഏക്കർ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിന്റെ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ പലർ ആയിരിക്കും. പല ആധാരങ്ങൾ രജിസ്റ്റർ ചെയ്തിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യും. ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ട വസ്തുവിനല്ലാതെ ഇങ്ങനെ മൊത്തം നമ്പരിൽ മറ്റുള്ളവർ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള കരണങ്ങൾ അടങ്ങിയ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റു ഹാജരാക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് കക്ഷികൾക്കു പ്രയാസം നേരിടുന്നതിനും പുറമേ ആ വസ്തുവിൽ ചാർജ്ജുണ്ടോ ഇല്ലയോ തീരുമാനിക്കുന്നതിനുതന്നെ വളരെ കാലതാമസം വരുന്നു. പണത്തിനു അത്യാവശ്യപ്പെട്ടപ്പോഴായിരിക്കാം ഇടമിൻമേൽ പണം വാങ്ങാമെന്നു കരുതി ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റുകൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നതു. വസ്തുവിൽ ചാർജ്ജില്ലെന്നു അറിഞ്ഞാൽ മാത്രമേ അതിനു സാധിക്കുകയുള്ളു.

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Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : എൻകംപ്രൻസ് സർട്ടിഫിക്കറിലാണോ സബ് രജിസ്ട്രാക്ക് ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമില്ലെന്ന് മെമ്പർ പറയുന്നത്.

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe : കക്ഷികൾക്ക കൊടുക്കുന്ന സർട്ടിഫിക്കറിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ ഉത്തരവാദിയല്ലെന്ന നിലയിൽ ആണ എഴുതി കൊടുക്കുന്നത. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്ന ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്ന സർട്ടിഫിക്കറിൽ സബ് രജിസ്ട്രാക്ക് ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമുള്ളതായിതന്നെ എഴുതിക്കൊടുക്കും.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : സർട്ടിഫിക്കറിൻെറ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ ഉത്തരവാദിയല്ലെന്ന പ്രസ്താവന നോട്ടുള്ളതായി മെമ്പക്കറിയാമോ?

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe : കക്ഷികൾക്ക കൊടുത്ത സർട്ടിഫിക്കറിൽ ഇപ്രകാരം ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്ന എഴുതിച്ചോദിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വത്തിൻപേരിൽ കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

ഇനി എനിക്ക പറയുവാനുള്ളത് സബ് രജിസ്ട്രാർ കച്ചേരികൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണ്. കോതമംഗലത്തുതന്നെ സബ് രജിസ്ട്രാർ കച്ചേരി ഇരിക്കുന്നത് ഒരു കുന്നിൻെറ മുകളിലാണ്. വളരെ പ്രായംചെന്ന അളുകൾക്കും രോഗികൾക്കും അവിടെ പോകുന്നതിന പ്രയാസമുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽ ആ കച്ചേരി പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്ക സൌകര്യപ്രദമായ ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തു സ്ഥാപിച്ചാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്നുകൂടി ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ട് എൻെറ പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. K. Madhava Kurup : Sir, one of the honourable members referred to the need for locating Sub-Registry Offices in the centre of their jurisdiction. He had in mind the Office at Ooroottampalam, which as the result of agitation as admitted by the member, was transferred to Maranallur. Some time back, some people had represented for the shifting of that office to a different place, Malayinkil ; but that was not pressed. There is now no proposal to shift the Maranallur Office ; nor has there been any other complaint about its present location. The present location of the Sub-Registry Office is considered to be convenient.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : If there is agitation to the effect that the office should be shifted back to the old place, will that be done ?

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Mr. K. Madhava Kurup : All that I said was that there was no complaint about the present location or request for transfer back to old site.

It was stated that Sub-Registrars refused to accept documents even if they were presented as per rules before 3 P. M. The rule is very clear in the matter. It says :—

> "2. A Registering Officer may attend his office and accept documents for registration earlier than 11 A. M. when the work of registration is heavy ; but he may decline to accept a document if presented after 3 P. M., when he has sufficient work to attend to after that hour in connection with documents previously accepted for registration"

This rule is very strictly followed by the officers of the department. There has been one instance in which a complaint was made that a document presented before 3 P. M., was not accepted. That matter went up to Government. The Sub-Registrar who was found to have refused to accept the document presented before 3 P. M., was severely punished. That shows how the rule is enforced. During the past one or two years, for a variety of reasons, work in Sub-Registry Offices has considerably increased. The rule is that a document presented for registration should be registered, transcribed and certified on the same day ; and as far as possible the document should be returned on the same day to the party concerned. When many documents have been presented for registration on a particular day, as happened in Kumbham and Edavam last, Sub-Registrars might have induced some parties to bring the document the next day. I myself have received occasionally by the trunk telephone some complaints from parties stating that their documents were not accepted for registration though they were presented before 3 P. M. In such cases, I have taken suitable action.

It was suggested that the number of document writers should be reduced and that hereafter they should be persons with recognised qualifications and that a test should be instituted for them. Personally, as Director of Registration, I quite welcome that suggestion. The document writers are not attached to the offices. There are in most places more document writers than the work requires. The profession is over crowded, like others. As a class they know their work, but there are black sheep among them. Disgruntled document writers are mostly the authors of anonymous and pseudonymous petitions about Sub-Registry Offices. The documents coming up for registration are mostly written by them and they are generally found to be in order, though their general educational qualifications are not enough. It will be a very good thing however, if these document writers can be licensed. But there are difficulties in the way. The hundreds of people who

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now earn a precarious living by this should not be suddenly disqualified. The income that a document writer gets is not a princely one, and it is not possible to prescribe any high qualifications or rigid test at present. The House will be surprised to hear that it is a very poor remuneration that they get, and that some are actually paid by the page. If a time comes when educated people with legal qualifications would take up that work, if a class of conveyancers would come into being it will be time to introduce that reform.

Mr. Fletcher referred to the leakage of stamp revenue by way of under assessment in documents. Conditions in the Registration Department are not exactly the same as those obtaining in the Judicial Department. Generations of document writers, have perfected a technique and they know all about the stamp law and registration law. The documents prepared by such experienced men are scrutinised in various stages by experienced Sub-Registrars. Head Clerks, Indexing clerks and the copying clerk in the office. If any mistake in assessment is found that is easily rectified then and there, There are rules for introducing deficiently stamped documents. If at any time, later on, during inspection by the District Registrar, it is found that a Sub-Registrar has levied an inadequate fee, there is provision in the rules to recover that loss from the Sub-Registrar concerned. Stamp duties are correctly assessed and such instances are rare. There are instances where such recoveries have been effected. Again, it is not correct to say that only ten per cent of the documents are examined by the District Registrars during their inspections. The rule is that a definite percentage of the documents should be scrutinised by them and they are doing it. They examine all the documents in Books II, III and IV and ten per cent. of those in Book I. All the documents in Book I are examined by the clerks who accompany the District Registrars for inspection. Mistakes in the levy of stamp and fee are discovered when checking the monthly returns in my office and in the course of scrutiny of the Index by the District Registrars.

Apart from leakage, there is perhaps some loss of revenue due to evasion. Due to the ingenuity of document writers and the variety of interpretation, there are instances of loss of revenue. The question of preventing such evasion is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. Sankara Menon wanted that the additional office at Nedumangad should be located at Pothencode. Elsewhere the suggestion made was that it should be located at Palode. There

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seems to be a current belief that the opening of a Sub-Registrar's Office will convert a rural area into a town. One of the ideas underlying every request for the establishment of a Sub-Registry Office is the conversion of a petty village into a flourishing town. In regard to the additional Sub-Registry Office proposed to be opened at Nedumangad, it is only temporary for one year ; and if it is opened either at Palode or Pothencode it will not possible to give any relief to the Offices at Vamanapuram or Maranallur. So the proposal is to locate the office at Nedumangad itself, where the Civil Courts and Taluk headquarter are and where it is thought, it will be most convenient to the people. The immediate object is to give relief to the office at Nedumangad and that can best be attained by having the new office as near to it as possible.

Mr. M. Govindan : May I know whether if on inspection it is found that excess stamp value is levied, there is any remedy to the person who paid the excess value ?

Mr. K. Madhava Kurup : It is open to the parties to ask for refund within one year.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : Will it be possible for the Department to delete the clause in the Registration Search Certificates issued to the parties to the effect that the Department is not responsible for the errors or omissions in the certificates?

Mr. K. Madhava Kurup : The Settlement Registers now in use in the offices do not contain any of the post-settlement subdivisions and that is one reason why encumbrance certificates contain the errors or omissions in the certificates referred to by Mr. Kuriyppe. In the present condition under which the settlement register embodies mostly obselete information the Department has to disclaim all responsibility for the correctness. I do not think any useful purpose will be served by declaring the Sub-Registrar is responsible. How can that be enforced ?

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know how long it will take for the department to issue certificates guaranteeing the accuracy of the statements contained therein ?

Mr. K. Madhava Kurup: After the next settlement Registers are made up to date and when there is an arrangement with the Revenue Department to supply regularly, as elsewhere quarterly or monthly statements of sub-divisions, transfers of registry etc.

Then with regard to the office at Kotamangalam, the policy of Government has been to locate Government offices in Government buildings. This office is on the top of a hill and there has been no fall in the number of registrations because of the location. The parties have to go to the office only once a year or so when they

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have to register a document. But the staff will have to go up the hill every day and the complaint should have come from them, if at all.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 3,18,514 under demand V - Registration was put to vote and carried.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND VI—RAILWAYS.

Mr. R. Rama Varrier: Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 21,500 under Demand VI—Railways.

The Demand was put to vote and carried, and the grant was made.

DEMAND VII—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT including WATER WORKS AND DRAINAGE.

Mr. I. C. Chacko (*Executive Engineer in charge of the duties of the Chief Engineer*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 52,52,419 under Demand VII — Public Works Department including Water works and Drainage.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvila: I submit that there are too many Executive Engineers in the State.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, I rise to a point of order. I wish to know whether the House will not rise at 4-30 P. M.

President: During Budget session we sit till 5 o' clock.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvila: About 30 years ago when their work was very different and when there was no Motor cars in this country and when there was no convenience for journey I understand that there were stations at an interval of 12 miles. Now this arrangement is not at all necessary. I am also told that there is a rule that an Executive Engineer should not remain in his Head Quarters for more than 10 days in the months. I do not think there is hardly any Executive Engineer who does not return to his House each day. They can return to their Head quarters within a short space of time. Therefore I feel that there are too many Executive Engineers and that their number should be reduced. For example, there is now an Executive Engineer with his Head Quarters at Alwaye. I am told that it was for the convenience of Mr. Everard that Alwaye was made the Head Quarters. I am told that he was not very healthy and in order to suit his convenience of going to Bangalore Alwaye was made his Head Quarters. So instead of Muvattupuzha being made the Head Quarters, Alwaye was made the Head Quarters.

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